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High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
10-19 July 2017

Summary of the fifth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum

Note by the Secretariat

In its resolution 67/290, the General Assembly decided on the format and organizational framework of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In that resolution, Member States also decided that the meetings of the forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council would take into account the work of the Development Cooperation Forum. The Secretariat hereby submits to the high-level political forum a summary of the fifth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, as prepared by the President of the Council. The annex to the summary offers an overview of related analytical work, side events, high-level preparatory symposiums and other preparatory events.

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Summary

The overarching theme of the fifth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, held in New York in July 2016, was "Development cooperation: lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda". The Forum viewed the broad concept of development cooperation, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, from a multi-stakeholder perspective, which encompassed financial resources, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, policy change and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The Development Cooperation Forum heightened the urgency of integrating, in our daily practice, a transformative focus on sustainable development results, putting the furthest behind first and adapting institutions and policies in support of priorities and systems in developing countries. It called for much more information of a context-specific nature on development cooperation needs, policies and best practices.

The Forum maintained an emphasis throughout the discussions on science, technology and innovation, climate change and resilience building; and advanced discussions on the prioritization and more effective use of official development assistance and on its unique role within the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Participants called for strengthened efforts by the United Nations to support Southern partners so as to enhance the evidence base on achieving sustainable development results.

The Development Cooperation Forum placed a new emphasis on improving the evidence base on engaging the private sector in development cooperation, as a means of making a step change in respect of knowledge sharing and mutual learning, as well as trust building in this area. The Forum identified tremendous capacity gaps and new opportunities in respect of strengthening the qualitative dimension of multilayered monitoring and accountability systems for development cooperation. It also called for mainstreaming inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships and bottom-up approaches in all forms of development cooperation.

The fifth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, and its extensive preparatory process, demonstrated how the Forum enables open, candid, critical and action-oriented dialogue among all actors in the area of development cooperation, generating concrete policy guidance under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council convened the fifth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 21 and 22 July 2016. Under the overarching theme of "Development cooperation: lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda", the meeting brought together over 250 representatives of Governments and a range of stakeholders — civil society organizations, local governments, parliamentarians, philanthropic organizations, international organizations, development banks and the private sector — to review trends and progress in international development cooperation.

2. The meeting built on an extensive two-year preparatory process, including analytical work, which culminated in the issuance on 10 May 2016 of the report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation (E/2016/65); three high-level Forum symposiums, held in Belgium, the Republic of Korea and Uganda; and other special events, briefings, side events and workshops.

3. The high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up are mandated to take the work of the Development Cooperation Forum into account in their follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.[2] Further, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum as the primary global platform for multi-stakeholder discussion on the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation.

4. The Development Cooperation Forum-related research and multi-stakeholder discussions also informed the preparations for and follow-up to the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which will guide those activities during the first years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

5. The present summary presents the key messages and policy recommendations of the Forum on (a) development cooperation under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; (b) aligning development cooperation to support national sustainable development strategies; (c) bridging capacity gaps and facilitating technology development and transfer; (d) strengthening the contribution of South-South cooperation to sustainable development; (e) engaging the private sector in development cooperation; and (f) strengthening the monitoring and review of development cooperation for better sustainable development results.

Summary of the discussion

II. Development cooperation under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

6. *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits the international community to bringing global solidarity, international cooperation and collective action to new heights.* Concerted efforts are needed at all levels to transition from

[1] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[2] General Assembly resolution 69/313.

sectoral to more integrated approaches, to localize the Sustainable Development Goals and to take synergistic approaches to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[3] and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] which together form an action plan for people, the planet, peace, prosperity and partnership.

7. *The fifth biennial Development Cooperation Forum, held on 21 and 22 July 2016, has heightened the urgency of incorporating in daily practice a transformative focus on sustainable development results*, so as to put the furthest behind first and adapt institutions and policies in support of priorities and systems in developing countries. Development cooperation can promote coherence among different development agendas and activities, facilitate inclusive cross-sector partnerships and provide capacity support for policy coherence in the effort to achieve sustainable development. This includes ensuring better linkages between development cooperation and humanitarian assistance and promoting systematic investment in building the resilience of countries and communities.

8. *All stakeholders can embrace and advance the broad concept of development cooperation as reflected in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, which encompasses financial resources, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, policy change and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The quality of the relationships between and among partners is of critical importance, extending beyond the overall quantity of resources that underpin development cooperation.

9. *Development cooperation should continue to play its distinct role in supporting the poorest and the most vulnerable countries and people*. Leaving no one behind means directing targeted assistance and providing sufficient resources and support to countries and communities with the least resources and the weakest capacity. In this context, existing commitments to providing official development assistance (ODA) must be met, while ODA should be further prioritized in terms of its allocation and should be used more effectively to benefit those furthest behind first. Development cooperation has great potential to help correct market failures and asymmetric access to development opportunities among and within countries and to support their national sustainable development strategies. Leaving no one behind will require making new choices and larger-scale investments; using new evidence-based tools; strengthening domestic institutions, including in the areas of data, monitoring and review; providing longer-term budget support; and broadening multi-stakeholder partnerships at all levels.

10. *In identifying the needs of all developing countries, a more comprehensive approach, beyond measuring gross national income per capita, should be explored*. The 2016 Development Cooperation Forum highlighted the different challenges facing least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries affected by conflict and characterized by their fragility, and middle-income countries. The Forum underscored the challenge posed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the current knowledge gaps and stressed the urgency of acquiring much more information of a context-specific nature on development cooperation needs, policies and best practices.

11. *Development cooperation should contribute to mobilization and optimal use of all means of implementation*. ODA can be an important leveraging tool in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, strengthening statistical capacities and mobilizing public-private partnerships in developing countries. The catalytic use of

[3] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

[4] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

ODA should be closely monitored and measured against its effectiveness in generating positive outcomes for poverty eradication and sustainable development, and not just in increasing the volume of finance. The growing and complementary contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation should be further strengthened and knowledge-sharing should be increased. The private sector should be more strategically engaged in development cooperation, including in the development and transfer of science, technologies and innovation, in favour of developing countries.

12. *Development cooperation has a key role to play in strengthening accountability of all development actors and enhancing the quality and impact of partnerships*. This includes promoting the oversight role of parliamentarians, providing capacity support for civil society, and facilitating the greater engagement of the public along all dimensions of development processes. Results-focused, evidence-based and inclusive approaches are key to facilitating knowledge-sharing and mutual learning for sustainable development.

III. Aligning development cooperation to support national sustainable development strategies

13. *Development cooperation actors are undertaking policy and institutional reforms in line with the 2030 Agenda*. Countries at all development levels are adapting their development cooperation policies and strategies and reforming institutions, including through establishment of new functions within existing entities, in order to mainstream the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in their cooperation efforts. Development cooperation institutions at all levels, including those within the United Nations system, need adjustment. Global institutions should adapt their priorities, corporate strategies, operational approaches, funding and capacity to the goals under the 2030 Agenda. It is critical that all of these adaptations include efforts to enhance the alignment of development cooperation interventions with the development priorities of developing countries.

14. *Country ownership and government leadership are essential to effective implementation*. One delegate shared the experiences of his country in its effort to streamline its public financial management systems and institutions, which resulted in increased domestic revenues, significant debt reduction and strengthened and more diversified partnerships, including greater emphasis on South-South cooperation. National development cooperation policies should reflect a whole-of-government approach and should be owned by whole societies, through institutionalized participatory development processes that engage all stakeholders, including parliaments and civil society organizations, with their vital oversight roles.

15. *Achieving genuine country ownership and alignment will require significant shifts in development cooperation processes and behaviour*. Development partners acknowledged that alignment was one of the areas where progress had been lagging. Some practical difficulties were identified, including in matching their desired development outcomes with those of developing countries and aligning their systems with the various country systems of their partners. Accountability tools should also be revisited to ensure that they recognize sufficiently the dynamics of development that can produce systemic change.

16. *Longer-term, programme-based approaches (e.g., budget support and pooled funding) facilitate better alignment with the national sustainable development strategies of developing countries*. In this regard, some developing countries are revising their national development cooperation policies, under which partners are

obliged to agree upon the terms of engagement. This can not only facilitate alignment but also support developing countries in consolidating strategies and building their knowledge base.

17. *Addressing the poor quality of data and increasing the visibility of financial and non-financial flows will also be key to better alignment of incentives and cooperation efforts.* Data gaps make programming difficult in this, the early implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda, which is why some developing countries are prioritizing data and national statistical capacity in their international cooperation. Some countries are also working to fully integrate their databases on development cooperation into their national public financial management systems.

IV. Bridging capacity-gaps and facilitating technology development and transfer

18. *Developing countries indicated huge gaps in policy and institutional capacities for achieving the 2030 Agenda, particularly in areas such as public administration; domestic resource mobilization, including tax administration; and data and statistics.* Least developed countries typically have limited capacities in policy integration and in ensuring a strong science-policy interface, which will be instrumental to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. More ODA should be allocated to support for the countries with the weakest policymaking and implementing capacities. It is critical that policy reforms be fast-tracked so as to ensure a more enabling international environment for sustainable development, as underlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

19. *Capacity support should be built into any development cooperation interventions at country level, directed towards enhancement of human resources and skills development for national stakeholders*, including youth, women and girls. Managing "silo" projects without the engagement of local actors will not bring lasting results for sustainable development. Development cooperation for capacity development, including technical cooperation, should be demand-driven, based on clear needs assessments.

20. *Development cooperation has critical roles to play in supporting developing countries in harnessing technological trends for sustainable development*, including through the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. It could also support the building of developing countries' capacities to link national statistics with big data, in such a way as to serve the public interest. At the same time, some technological changes, such as those entailing mechanized labour and robotics, risk leaving poor and marginalized countries and people further behind. Dialogue on these challenges is often held within the context only of negotiation of free-trade agreements. Participants called for stronger multi-stakeholder platforms for discussing technological development and transfer from a development cooperation perspective, including at regional level. The Development Cooperation Forum is well positioned to provide such open space for multi-stakeholder exchanges at global level.

V. Strengthening the contributions of South-South cooperation to sustainable development

21. *South-South cooperation preserves policy and fiscal space for developing countries.* The long-standing conceptual framework of South-South cooperation is non-prescriptive, based on common principles. By virtue of its approach, it is

capable of harmonizing diverse priorities among stakeholders and ensuring shared ownership and processes. These characteristics are evident, for instance, in the new development and infrastructure banks of the South, which merit further study with a view to generating lessons and knowledge that are relevant for all actors in development cooperation.

22. *South-South cooperation has great potential to reduce asymmetries in access to development opportunities and to respond directly to local demands*. The experience of South-South cooperation shows that adoption of new policies based on exchange of knowledge can have a huge development impact. In this and other ways, South-South cooperation can contribute to addressing the systemic issues that limit policy space and undermine development. South-South cooperation also reflects a recognition of the importance of localizing such global objectives as the Sustainable Development Goals, as consistent with context-specific demands and levels of capacity to solve local problems. It should thus also be able to strengthen its contributions to creating an enabling environment based on multi-stakeholder partnerships, with active participation of civil society. In this connection, some participants highlighted the importance for South-South cooperation to show respect for human rights and rights-based approaches and ensure its accountability to the public and beneficiaries of development projects.

23. *South-South cooperation needs to further develop its institutions and exchanges, while preserving its strategic focus on promoting autonomy, resilience and structural change*. Institutions should be set up or existing institutions re-engineered in developing countries in such a way as to enable them to channel South-South cooperation more effectively. Information and knowledge sharing among all actors in developing countries, including development cooperation institutions and civil society organizations, should be strengthened. Functional coordination mechanisms for political and operational dimensions of development cooperation, which do not yet exist, could be considered. More regional clusters of cooperation can be created in key areas, such as financing, statistics and monitoring and evaluation.

24. *Participants called for strengthened efforts by the United Nations to support Southern partners in enhancing the evidence base on the value added of South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development results*. In this connection, the challenges of documenting evidence and quantifying the relevant data were noted. There was a sense that conceptual cleavages in respect of what qualifies as South-South cooperation was of less interest to developing countries. Rather, with a clear sense of the basic purpose of South-South cooperation, developing countries could together define the parameters for measuring it and assessing its contributions to achieving sustainable development. Participants underscored the importance of the Development Cooperation Forum as a platform for sharing rich experiences among Southern partners and cross-fertilizing the good practices.

VI. Engaging the private sector in development cooperation

25. *Effective engagement of the private sector in development cooperation begins with building genuine alliances between the public and private sectors, including civil society and trade unions, based on deeper mutual understanding*. The public sector should take a more practical approach to innovating opportunities and incentivizing the private sector to invest in sustainable development, in a way that goes beyond philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. The members of the private sector should perceive the 2030 Agenda as offering an opportunity to rethink their approach to sustainable value creation and better "business diplomacy", by

aligning their businesses with the priorities of the societies in which they operate. Participants offered examples of contexts where Governments and the private sector were working together in this direction.

26. *The 2016 Development Cooperation Forum put strong emphasis on improving the evidence base on engaging the private sector in development cooperation*, as a means of making a step change in knowledge sharing and mutual learning, as well as trust building in this area.

27. *Blended finance is one vehicle for strengthening private sector engagement in development cooperation*, not only in financing but also in capacity-building, technology development and transfer, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. However, within the context of the enormous financing gaps associated with efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, blended finance is not a panacea. Current trends show greater investment of blended finance in middle-income countries and those with lower levels of poverty.

28. *The focus of discussions in the Development Cooperation Forum and other platforms is shifting from the usefulness of blended finance to deepening the understanding of when its use is appropriate, how it should be used and structured, and how the associated risks should be assessed and managed.* Blended development cooperation is justified on a "case-by-case" basis to prevent the provision of undue subsidies to the private sector, achieve value for money and effectively manage risks for both public and private sectors. The Forum can provide a neutral multi-stakeholder platform for building further evidence, and providing policy guidance and opportunities for capacity development, as regards the effective use of blended financing instruments in favour of developing countries.

29. *Development cooperation can support engagement of the private sector from the outset in co-designing projects and strengthening the capacities in developing countries* of national and local governments, local development finance institutions, parliamentarians and civil society organizations.

30. *The developing countries involved should play a central role in decisions on using ODA for blending finance for development* and in the planning, design and management of specific blended finance projects, regardless of the ratio of ODA to envisaged private sector investment. In this context, participants stressed the importance of applying principles of effective development cooperation, in particular the aligning of projects with developing country priorities and ensuring strong country ownership.

31. *Major efforts are needed to ensure transparency and accountability of all actors in blended development cooperation.* Measures need to be taken to incentivize bilateral and multilateral development finance institutions to publish their relevant contracts and establish public complaint mechanisms; in this regard, the potential role of the United Nations in developing global regulatory frameworks, standards and guidelines was noted. In addition, the importance of putting in place independent validation mechanisms was highlighted.

VII. Strengthening monitoring and review of development cooperation for better sustainable development results

32. *All stakeholders have a collective responsibility in respect of the monitoring and review of progress towards development cooperation commitments, with a strong focus on mutual learning for better results and leaving no one behind.* The accountability of Governments to the public provides the basis for effective

monitoring and review of progress at all levels and should be further strengthened, including through greater efforts to collect authentic citizen-based data.

33. *The active involvement of parliaments, local authorities and civil society is especially important in respect of holding Governments accountable at the national level* for delivering on development cooperation commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In this regard, the Forum again highlighted the pressing need for capacity support for parliamentarians, local governments and civil society organizations.

34. *The criteria for measuring progress should be strongly anchored in and aligned with national sustainable development plans*, including in the case of private and blended development cooperation. A global standard for monitoring the national budgetary process, including its auditing component, could support individual countries in better linking resources with results and integrating overall financial management, including development cooperation.

35. *Issues related to statistical capacities and quality data, such as disaggregation, convergence and open data, should be addressed concurrently*, for more transparent and accountable development cooperation and for design and implementation of better policies and practices.

36. *Inclusive space is needed for designing and implementing a solid country results framework linked to the Sustainable Development Goals*, including with more precise indicators and incentives for non-State actors. The Forum strongly underscored the need to step up the conversations at country level on monitoring behavioural changes of all stakeholders in development cooperation and promoting transparency and multilayered accountability. The need to foster an enabling environment for civil society organizations was also highlighted.

37. *Systems and processes for monitoring and review of development cooperation at all levels should be linked in more cohesive and coherent ways*. Regional monitoring mechanisms (e.g., the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism) can play a strengthened role in interconnecting work on accountability at national and global levels so as to facilitate peer learning and provide supplementary data. The Development Cooperation Forum has a unique role to play in providing the primary multi-stakeholder platform at global level for open and honest review and action-oriented debates on the trends and progress in international development cooperation, including its quality, impact and effectiveness.

38. *Development cooperation itself should support inclusive, evidence-based and much more dynamic processes of monitoring and review*, conducive to experimentation, "failing faster" and swiftness in owning up to failures without fear. Such an approach is critical to unleashing the full force of human creativity and enabling faster learning, adjustments and innovations in policy and practice.

VIII. The way forward and next steps

39. *We must be galvanized by a shared sense of urgency into taking possible actions immediately that are geared towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*. There is no time to search for perfect solutions. Participants called upon the Economic and Social Council, including the Development Cooperation Forum, to provide clear direction and leadership for the United Nations development system and beyond in respect of helping to create and re-gear incentive schemes, within which synergy and collaboration are rewarded and unprofitable competition is avoided.

40. *Development cooperation has to support the changes in mindset needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*: changes from sectoral to integrated approaches, from governmental to whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and from measuring development in terms of income or growth to considering the multiple dimensions of poverty, sustainability and inclusivity. Development cooperation should promote the shift in focus from financing to the broader partnership dimension and effective engagement of all stakeholders.

41. *Development cooperation should help strengthen institutions and systems in such a way as to root out discrimination and inequality and place people at the centre as active partners* in delivering on the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations and all Governments should engage young people in particular in more tangible and meaningful ways. As those who will be most affected by the 2030 Agenda, youth can be encouraged to play a larger role — a role that is at the centre of follow-up, review and accountability processes — through introducing disruptive and transformative thinking and linking it to the bold aspiration of leaving no one behind.

42. *The United Nations development system has a key role to play in nurturing partnerships in all areas of sustainable development*, including with regard to mobilization of financial and non-financial resources, North-South and South-South, as well as triangular cooperation, and private and blended development cooperation. The United Nations development system will need to adapt to the aims of the broader and integrated agenda and respond to the strong demand for country ownership of national sustainable development strategies.

43. *The conceptual and political independence of the Development Cooperation Forum is critical to its capacity for innovation and contributions to implementation efforts at all levels*. With open and honest exchanges, the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum advanced the global policy dialogue on how development cooperation can play more strategic roles in promoting rights-based, results-oriented and whole-of-society approaches to supporting developing countries in strengthening country ownership and in assisting all stakeholders in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Participants called upon the Forum to further strengthen its capacity to promote knowledge sharing and mutual learning and provide guidance on development cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Annex

Analytical work of the Development Cooperation Forum in the 2014-2016 cycle

- *Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation*. Latest biennial report and main substantive input to the 2016 high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum, addressing the importance and tremendous potential of development cooperation as a lever for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- *Fourth biennial high-level meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum accountability survey study*. Maps and analyses the evidence on the state of play in development cooperation on the ground in the responding countries, which structured their assessment around "mutual accountability enablers", such as national development cooperation policies, country-driven results frameworks, clear institutional structures with dialogue forums, and quality information

Development cooperation: scope and implementation

- *What is development cooperation*? Major tasks and activities of development cooperation based on the new universal agendas
- *New forms of cooperation and increased coherence directed towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals*. Ensuring coherence of national policy to maximize the use of new forms of development cooperation
- *Re-engineering development cooperation institutions to enable them to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Active engagement as the fulcrum of better alignment, integration and coherence
- *Assessing the suitability of different development cooperation modalities for greater effectiveness and impact post-2015*. Exploring the unique opportunities provided by each modality to the transformed development cooperation landscape
- *Adjusting development cooperation for the Sustainable Development Goals*. Lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and adaptation of coherent policy at all levels of government
- *Making development cooperation on climate change sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable countries*. Analysing recent trends and issues in development cooperation funding for climate change-sensitive countries

Trends in development cooperation financing and capacity-building

- *Improving official development assistance (ODA) allocation for a post-2015 world*. Re-examining the role of ODA and ensuring that it is used in areas to which it is best suited and where it is needed most
- *ODA allocation and other trends in development cooperation in least developed countries and vulnerable contexts*. Identifying recent trends in ODA allocation and applying a portfolio of models to each country's particular needs

- *Private and blended development cooperation*: assessing their effectiveness and impact for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Substantive and procedural elements to be considered
- *Strengthening technology facilitation and capacity-building within a post-2015 setting: understanding the issues*. Linking technological innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals
- *International development cooperation to promote technology facilitation and capacity-building for the 2030 Agenda*. Exploring the relationship between development cooperation and the promotion of technology and capacity-building

Monitoring and review of development cooperation

- Addressing changes and challenges in monitoring and review of development cooperation at the national level. Using six enablers of mutual accountability to unpack the changes and challenges and identify ways forward
- Monitoring and review of development cooperation to support implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. Exploring how to help Governments prepare for monitoring and review of an increasingly complex set of global commitments on development cooperation
- Localizing monitoring and review of development cooperation for the 2030 Agenda. Prospects for and challenges of practising monitoring and review of development cooperation at the local level
- Country results frameworks for effective monitoring and review. Using integrated, aligned country-driven results frameworks to support the 2030 Agenda
- Citizen-based monitoring of development cooperation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Overview of citizen-based monitoring systems and means of enabling effective citizen-based monitoring and review

Development Cooperation Forum side events, New York, 20-22 July 2016

- Launch of Development Cooperation Forum accountability study, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
- CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), "Enhancing accountability and policy coherence in South-South cooperation: monitoring quality and documenting impact at country level", Reality of Aid, United Nations Development Programme
- "Blended finance in the SDG era", technical workshop, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
- "Managing triangular cooperation in Latin America: country-led practices and tools", Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS)
- "The future measurement and monitoring framework for development finance in support of the 2030 Agenda — total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD)", Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Committee for Development Policy secretariat
- "Adaptation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of development cooperation in Asia and the Pacific", Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Office of the High

Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States "Principles of South-South cooperation and TOSSD: what findings from case studies in the South can tell us about convergence and discrepancy", Network for Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and German Development Institute (DIE)

- "Effective development cooperation for least developed countries", Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small island Developing States

Preparatory symposiums

- Development Cooperation Forum: Belgium, high-level symposium, 6-8 April 2016
- Development Cooperation Forum: Uganda, high-level symposium, 4-6 November 2015
- Development Cooperation Forum: Republic of Korea, high-level symposium, 8-10 April 2015

Other preparatory events of the 2014-2016 Development Cooperation Forum cycle

- Development cooperation: lever for integrated SDG implementation, briefing on the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum preparatory process, 22 February 2016
- Mobilizing development finance for the 2030 Agenda: next steps towards measuring total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD), Development Cooperation Forum side event, 27 October 2015
- The impact of private and blended development cooperation: what can we expect in practice? Development Cooperation Forum special event at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD-III), 16 July 2015
- Joint meeting of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council: "A renewed global partnership for development and successor arrangements to MDG8", 30 October 2014